

From: ["Thomas. Hattie" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B1EBAFC79FA94F308D9F6EBB0424E75A-THOMAS.HATTIE>](mailto:Thomas.Hattie@EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B1EBAFC79FA94F308D9F6EBB0424E75A-THOMAS.HATTIE)
To:
CC:
Date: 12/12/2013 4:07:49 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest - 12/12/13

OPA Daily Digest for 12/12/13

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Vicky Hartzler (Mo) – 12/11/13. Questions about EPA's process of approving generators for emergency shelters. Due: 12/12/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (Mo) – 12/12/13. Questions about the West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton. Due: 12/12/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Wall Street Journal – John Emshwiller – 12/6/13 – Follow-up questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

Christian Broadcast Network – Catlin Burke – 12/6/13 – Request for interview at the regional office (Dec. 16/17) regarding Doe Run shutting down primary lead smelter in Herculaneum. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Ames Tribune (Iowa) – Gavin Aronsen – 12/10/13 – Questions about power plant technology to convert plants from coal to gas, including refuse drive fuel, resource recovery and gasification. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Associated Press, Omaha – Nelson Lampe – 12/12/13 – Questions about the National Priorities Listing process for Superfund. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Omaha World Herald – Nancy Gaarder – 12/11/13 – Questions about the history of the PCE Southeast and Northeast contaminated sites in York, Neb. Contact: Belinda Young, 7463 (closed)

St. Louis Public Radio – Veronique LaCapra – 12/12/13 – Discussed the potential of a 2014 story about illegal pesticide products being sold in St. Louis area communities disproportionately exposed to environmental harms and risks. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Sierra Club says Ameren plants violating air standards - 12/11/13 - The Sierra Club says it has data that show three Ameren Missouri coal-burning

power plants have racked up nearly 10,000 air-quality violations since 2008. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/sierra-club-says-ameren-plants-violating-air-standards/article_de650967-adbb-5196-80dc-3e4f8c14c462.html

Wichita Eagle - Conservative legislators decry wind power mandate for utilities - 12/12/13 - Some conservative leaders in the Kansas Legislature say wind power has been a huge burden on Kansas utility ratepayers, and the state needs to stop forcing utilities to buy it. <http://www.kansas.com/2013/12/12/3174665/conservative-legislators-decry.html>

Mid-Missouri Public Radio (Columbia, Mo.) - Water demands forcing farmers to become more efficient (+audio) - 12/11/13 - Farmers all over the Midwest are working to be more efficient in their water usage as supplies in many areas run tight. <http://kbia.org/post/water-demands-forcing-farmers-become-more-efficient>

Great Bend Tribune - (Kan.) - Why not? | Drilling at landfill worthy of consideration - 12/9/13 - the Barton County Commission gave the nod to solicit requests for proposals to oil producers interested in drilling at the Barton County Landfill. <http://www.gbtribune.com/section/26/article/63954/>

Bloomberg - EPA Official Says Exceeding 10% Ethanol in Fuel Not Feasible - 12/11/13 - The Environmental Protection Agency determined that it's not feasible for gasoline refiners to use as much ethanol next year as had been mandated, which is why the agency proposed easing the requirement, an EPA official said. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-12-11/epa-official-says-exceeding-10-ethanol-in-fuel-not-feasible-1-.html>

Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) - EPA wants to add two York sites to Superfund List - 12/11/13 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says it wants to add two sites in York with groundwater contamination issues to its Superfund National Priorities List. A Superfund listing notifies the public that the EPA believes a site requires further study and possible cleanup under the federal Superfund program. http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/epa-wants-to-add-two-york-sites-to-superfund-list/article_04589d5b-1633-5618-a87d-002583f6fe05.html

NewsMax - EPA Rules Force Closure of Last Ammo Maker - 12/11/13 - The closure of the last lead smelter plant in America due to tightened Environmental Protection Agency rules will have an impact on ammunition supplies and costs, according to Gun Owners of America. <http://www.newsmax.com/US/smelter-plant-ammo-costs/2013/12/11/id/541317>

Nebraska TV - Farmers Told to Get Angry over EPA Ethanol Rule - 12/11/13 - Nebraska farmers take a stand against the EPA, saying the agency is taking a huge step backwards on ethanol. They're urging Nebraskans to get vocal, and angry about a proposal that could curtail ethanol use. <http://www.nebraska.tv/story/24193882/farmers-told-to-get-angry-over-epa-ethanol-rule>

Iowa Farmer Today - Wood-chip filled trenches filter runoff from fields - 12/12/13 - In fall 2011, Arliss Nielsen built a woodchip bioreactor. The 160-foot-long, 40-foot-wide trench filled with woodchips intercepts runoff from the adjacent field, and filters nitrates from the water before it continues downstream. http://www.iowafarmertoday.com/news/crop/wood-chip-filled-trenches-filter-runoff-from-fields/article_8a8b2742-629d-11e3-8610-0019bb2963f4.html

Columbia Tribune - Bill would set E. coli limit for beach closures - 12/12/13 - A bill to define the upper limit for E. coli levels has been filed by Rep. Rocky Miller, R-Tusculum. Beaches would close only when levels reach 1,260 units or higher, a reading exceeded only once this year, at Harry S. Truman State Park near Warsaw. The warning level of 190 units would stay the same. http://www.columbiatribune.com/a/rop/lawmaker-asks-for-new-e-coli-standardbill-would-set-e/article_9ffb6236-635b-11e3-a271-10604b9f6eda.html

The Hill (blog) - EPA: Ethanol limit 'has been reached' - 12/11/13 - A top Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) official said on Wednesday that the agency's biofuel program has led to an unrealistic demand for petroleum refiners, a confirmation of warnings that have long been made by oil companies. <http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energy-environment/192753-epa-ethanol-limit-has-been-reached>

Politico - John Podesta will dig into energy and climate policy - 12/11/13 - John Podesta may not limit his efforts to only the marquee energy and climate-change tasks when he returns to the Obama administration. - <http://www.politico.com/story/2013/12/john-podesta-energy-climate-policy-101051.html>

Des Moines Register - Harkin, Senate committee report finds federal contracts often given to labor law violators - 12/11/13 - A new report from a U.S. Senate committee,

chaired by an Iowa senator, criticizes the federal government for paying out hundreds of billions of dollars each year in government contracts to frequent violators of U.S. labor laws. <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2013/12/11/harkin-senate-committee-report-finds-federal-contracts-often-given-to-labor-law-violators/>

Associated Press - New Obama adviser will not work on Keystone XL - 12/11/13 - A new senior adviser to President Barack Obama will recuse himself from deliberations on the Keystone XL oil pipeline, the White House said Wednesday. http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/new-obama-adviser-will-not-work-on-keystone-xl/article_f5c3300b-d691-5af9-a5fa-ca6d4c852301.html

Associated Press - Once sunken towboat ready to move to repair docks - 12/11/13 A Mississippi River towboat that partially sank last month near LeClaire is nearly ready to begin its 350-mile trip to a St. Louis-area repair facility, a U.S. Coast Guard spokesman said Wednesday. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/viewart/20131211/NEWS/312110124/Once-sunken-towboat-ready-move-repair-docks>

Columbia Tribune - Bill would set E. coli limit for beach closures - 12/12/13 - A bill to define the upper limit for E. coli levels has been filed by Rep. Rocky Miller, R-Tusculum. Beaches would close only when levels reach 1,260 units or higher, a reading exceeded only once this year, at Harry S. Truman State Park near Warsaw. The warning level of 190 units would stay the same. http://www.columbiatribune.com/a/rop/lawmaker-asks-for-new-e-coli-standardbill-would-set-e/article_9ffb6236-635b-11e3-a271-10604b9f6eda.html

Des Moines Register - Worries over wild weather grow for farmers, insurers (+video) - 12/11/13 - Iowa insurance and agricultural officials say that extreme weather is having a more pronounced impact on their industries as rising global damage payouts temper insurance profits and unusually heavy rain accelerates soil erosion. <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2013/12/11/worries-over-wild-weather-grow-for-farmers-insurers/>

Des Moines Register - Letter: Speaker wrong about Iowans' ag support - 12/11/13 - I think Iowans interested in helping good farmers do better and holding bad farmers accountable are great supporters and partners for Iowa agriculture and farmers like me. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20131212/OPINION04/312120030/1035/>

Biofuels Digest - Secretary Vilsack announces partnership to advance commercial potential of cellulosic nanomaterial from wood - 12/11/13 - USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a public-private partnership to rapidly advance the development of the first U.S. commercial facility producing cellulosic nanomaterial, a wood fiber broken down to the nanoscale. <http://www.biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2013/12/11/secretary-vilsack-announces-partnership-to-advance-commercial-potential-of-cellulosic-nanomaterial-from-wood/>

AgWeb - Dairy Dust Not Likely to Pose Hazard to Nearby Communities - 12/11/13 - Studies by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) indicate the dust stirred up by wind and restless cattle at dairies does contain bacteria, fungi and small bacterial remnants such as endotoxins. http://www.agweb.com/article/dairy_dust_not_likely_to_pose_hazard_to_nearby_communities_NAA_News_Release/

Christian Science Monitor - Supreme Court examines rule on cross-border pollution: Did EPA overreach? - 12/10/13 - The Supreme Court heard arguments Tuesday about an EPA rule that aims to curb cross-border air pollution. A lower court struck down the rule, saying the EPA exceeded its authority. <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Justice/2013/1210/Supreme-Court-examines-rule-on-cross-border-pollution-Did-EPA-overreach>

Washington Post - Another EPA official under investigation in CIA scheme - 12/11/13 - Investigators for the Environmental Protection Agency are reviewing the activity of another high-level official in the agency's Air and Radiation Office to determine whether to forward the case for possible prosecution. http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/another-epa-official-under-investigation-in-cia-scheme/2013/12/11/4a321030-6288-11e3-91b3-f2bb96304e34_story.html

Associated Press - Exxon: Rising Living Standards Propel Energy Needs - 12/11/13 - Exxon Mobil says the drive for higher living standards around the world will keep demand for electricity and transportation fuels growing even as economies get more efficient and governments put a price on pollution. <http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/exxon-rising-living-standards-propel-energy-21187933>

NPR - Big Batteries Needed To Make Fickle Wind And Solar Power Work - 12/11/13 - Giant batteries are coming to a power grid near you. In fact, they're already starting to appear on the grid in California. California is planning to rely increasingly on power supplies that aren't necessarily available every minute of every day.

<http://www.npr.org/2013/12/11/250043599/big-batteries-needed-to-make-fickle-wind-and-solar-power-work>

Forbes - Column: Shale To Solar: Neener, Neener - 12/11/13 - Any number of commentators about energy technologies have used the line, "It is the fuel of the future, and always will be." Recent developments highlight the incredible focus on the stark difference between potential energies and actual.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelylnch/2013/12/11/shale-to-solar-neener-neener/>

Huffington Post - Earth Needs Better Preparation For Massive Solar Storm, Scientist Says - 12/11/13 - Policy makers in the U.S. need to get serious about the threat posed by solar storms. So says Dr. Daniel Baker, a University of Colorado solar scientist with significant expertise in sun storms -- like the huge one the sun fired off in July 2012.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/11/earth-preparation-solar-storm_n_4414929.html

Think Progress - As Part Of Renewable Energy Strategy Obama Pushes "Green Button" - 12/11/13 - As part of President Obama's executive order last week, which included directing the federal government to triple its use of renewable energy by 2020, Obama instructed agencies to incorporate "Green Button" data further into their energy management practices. <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2013/12/11/3048041/renewable-energy-obama-green-button/>

4-Traders - Nebraska Corn Board : Nebraska Commodity Leaders Join to Urge Farmers to Submit Comment on EPA Ethanol-Reduction Proposal - 12/11/13 - The leaders of Nebraska's commodity groups and membership associations have joined in an urgent call to action to Nebraska farmers to get vocal and angry about recent action by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that would reduce the nation's commitment to renewable fuels. <http://www.4-traders.com/news/Nebraska-Corn-Board--Nebraska-Commodity-Leaders-Join-to-Urge-Farmers-to-Submit-Comment-on-EPA-Ethan--17604616/>

New York Times - Accused of Harming Bees, Bayer Researches a Different Culprit - 12/11/13 - Bayer's culprit in the mysterious mass deaths of bees can be found around the corner from the coffee bar. Looming next to another sculpture of a bee is a sculpture of a parasite known as a varroa mite, which resembles a gargantuan cooked crab with spiky hair.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/12/business/energy-environment/accused-of-harming-bees-bayer-researches-a-different-culprit.html>

The Guardian (U.K.) - Nobel winner declares boycott of top science journals - 12/11/13 - Randy Schekman says his lab will no longer send papers to Nature, Cell and Science as they distort scientific process. <http://www.theguardian.com/science/2013/dec/09/nobel-winner-boycott-science-journals>

Washington Post (blog) - Why GOP climate denialism matters less and less - 12/11/13 - Republican climate denial is extraordinarily frustrating. But the good news is that it matters less and less every day. Here's why: climate change is all about getting rid of fossil fuels as fast as possible, which is mostly about energy.

www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/wp/2013/12/11/why-gop-climate-denialism-matters-less-and-less/

ClimateWire - Scientists anticipate climate change impacts on Great Plains wetlands - 12/11/13 - Scientists from the University of Wyoming are looking at sites across the northern Plains, including the Fort Pierre National Grassland, to understand what happens to wetlands under a range of climate scenarios.

<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059991606>

ClimateWire - Public's understanding of climate change falling behind science -- climate scientists - 12/11/13 - As the global science of human-caused climate change improves, the public's inadequate understanding "is definitely a worry," a top national researcher said Monday. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059991611>

E&E Daily - Group questions whether federal funds support efforts to shut down Ala. plants - 12/11/13 - The Alabama Coal Association is asking Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) and the media to investigate the possibility that federal dollars are supporting anti-coal efforts in the state. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059991641>

E&E Daily - Group urges Boxer to reject 'anti-NEPA language' in water resources bill - 12/11/13 - The Natural Resources Defense Council is calling on Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) to reject provisions in a major water resources bill that it says needlessly weaken the National Environmental Policy Act. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059991632>

Greenwire - Federal judges reject EPA rule on heavy-duty truck engine emissions - 12/11/13 - Federal appellate judges today again threw out a U.S. EPA rule related to its approval of heavy-duty truck engines that did not meet its air standards. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059991672>

Greenwire - House bill would bar foreign travel over listening session spat - 12/11/13 - House Republicans are bashing U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy for taking a trip to China before visiting West Virginia and other coal states and are seeking to bar her from future foreign travel until she does. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059991667>

Baltimore Sun (Md.) - Editorial: Protect endangered air - 12/10/13 - Even a favorable Supreme Court decision won't go far enough to shield Maryland and other East Coast states from cross-state air pollution. <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/editorial/bs-ed-air-pollution-20131210.0.7358563.story>

BNA - Boxer Says No Need for Legislation On Fuel Standard After Action by EPA - 12/12/13 - Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, said Dec. 11 she sees no need for legislation related to the renewable fuel standard. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38961940&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e4d0t4n6&split=0

BNA - Community Leaders Tell White House What They Need to Foster Resiliency - 12/12/13 - State, local and tribal leaders met at the White House to lay out priorities for how the federal government can help them deal with extreme weather, sea level rise and other impacts of climate change. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38961953&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e4d1e0a7&split=0

BNA - Proposed Budget Deal Would Roll Back Scheduled Automatic Cuts to EPA Spending - 12/12/13 - A proposed bipartisan budget agreement would provide federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, with relief from scheduled automatic discretionary funding cuts scheduled to go into effect in January. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38961952&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e4d1b2c3&split=0

BNA - Court Revises Ozone Ruling to Clarify Standard for Public Health Margin of Safety - 12/12/13 - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit revised the language in an opinion upholding the Environmental Protection Agency's health-based standard for ozone in response to a rehearing request from environmental groups. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38961943&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e4d0v6j2&split=0

Inside EPA - Congress' Budget Pact May Help EPA Prospects For FY14 Funding Boost - 12/12/13 - A tentative House-Senate two-year budget deal could help prospects for boosting EPA's fiscal year 2014 funding slightly over its existing \$8.4 billion level. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-12/13/2013/congress-budget-pact-may-help-epa-prospects-for-fy14-funding-boost/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - Biofuels Sector Vows To Meet Onus Of Justifying Higher 2014 RFS Targets - 12/12/13 - Biofuels sector officials are vowing to meet an onus EPA has placed on them to provide sufficient data to justify the agency dropping its plan to retain or reduce existing renewable fuel standard (RFS) blending targets for various fuels in 2014. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-12/13/2013/biofuels-sector-vows-to-meet-onus-of-justifying-higher-2014-rfs-targets/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - D.C. Circuit Scraps Truck NOx Control Waiver Rule - 12/12/13 - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has scrapped an EPA rule that provided waivers to truck maker Navistar to continue selling heavy-duty engines that exceeded nitrogen oxides (NOx) limits. <http://insideepa.com/201312112455541/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/dc-circuit-scraps-truck-nox-control-waiver-rule/menu-id-97.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Launches Group To Weigh Climate Readiness In Water Project Financing - 12/12/13 - EPA has launched a new workgroup to discuss the possibility of considering water utilities' climate readiness in credit rating assessments. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-12/13/2013/epa-launches-group-to-weigh-climate-readiness-in-water-project-financing/menu-id-67.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

12/13/13 – MDNR All Hands Meeting – Guest Speaker, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

12/16/13 – Interagency Environmental Leadership Council, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

12/16/13 – West Lake Landfill CAG Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Hattie Thomas, 7762

12/18/13 – Missouri Agribusiness Association Annual Convention, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

12/19/13 – Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551

DRA:

12/19/13 – Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events**AWMD**

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

12/16/13 – West Lake Landfill CAG Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Debbie Kring, 7725

SUPR

12/16/13 – West Lake Landfill CAG Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Dan Gravatt, 7324 and Jeff Field, 7548

12/17/13 – Public Availability Session, York Groundwater Superfund Site, York, Neb. Contact: Shelley Brodie, 7706

WWPD

12/16/13 – Environmental Protection Agency / Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Public Water System Supervision meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

12/18/13 – Area Wide Drinking Water Optimization meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

Hattie L. Thomas

Acting Director

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